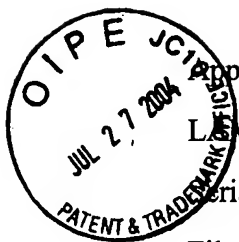


07-28-04

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



Application of:

LAMB, JAMES E., III et al.

Serial No.: 10/759,447

Filed: January 16, 2004

IMPROVED FILL MATERIAL FOR DUAL  
DAMASCENE PROCESSES

Docket No.: 27269-CNT7

Confirmation No.: 7841

Group Art Unit No.: 2812

Examiner: Ha T. Nguyen

Commissioner of Patents  
Mail Stop: IDS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

TRANSMITTAL

Transmitted herewith are: Transmittal (1 page); Preliminary Amendment (9 pages);  
Declaration by Xie Shao (9 pages); and return postcard.

EL 973754593 US

Express Mail No.

Respectfully submitted,

HOVEY WILLIAMS LLP

Dated: July 27, 2004

by

A handwritten signature of Tracy Bornman in black ink.

Tracy Bornman, Reg. No. 42,347

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ATTORNEYS FOR APPLICANT



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Assistant Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Entrance of the following preliminary amendment prior to examination on the merits is respectfully requested.